

NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

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APR 30 '66

NEWS OF PROJECTS

The first major payment, \$25,000, was made on the purchase of the 3,000 acre Northern California Coast Range project on October 31. A \$13,000 loan helped to meet the deadline and to bind the agreement with Mr. Heath Angelo. Members have shown a deep interest in the preservation of this watershed by the purchase and donation of acre tracts. There have been 233 acres contributed at \$33 each.

A deed for a second tract of land was received as a gift from Mrs. John White Delafield. This 2.08 acres of land is an addition to Delafield Woods as a natural area project developed by the Long Island Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Volo and Wauconda Bogs were transferred to the University of Illinois after an agreement to hold these natural areas forever wild was reached with university officials. Much of the credit for this successful project goes to Cyrus Mark, Treasurer of the project committee.

An 80 acre tract of federal land containing a representative old growth of spruce and white cedar in Koochiching County, Minnesota was recently leased by The Nature Conservancy for a five year period. The leasing was necessary prior to a hoped for classification of the land by the Bureau of Land Management for "sale" to the Conservancy.

Dr. John Hyer Memorial Woods has been dedicated to the pioneer doctors of the Ozarks. This is the 30 acre old growth white oak woods in the little town of Lake Spring, Dent County, Missouri, given to The Nature Conservancy by Mr. & Mrs. John Bowles. Mr. Bowles, a graduate of the Rolla School of Mines, is descended from a long line of medical doctors who practiced throughout South Central Missouri in the early settlement days of the 1830's. This forest tract is located in a prairie-forest transition zone, the history of which has been a subject for continued scientific inquiry.

GLEN HELEN STILL THREATENED

Latest reports from Yellow Springs, Ohio, indicate the danger of a sewage line desecrating Glen Helen still exists. Antioch College officials have protested the village council's decision to go through the Glen, and a court battle appears imminent unless the routing is changed. The first threat to Glen Helen from an interstate highway was conquered. "Witnesses to Wilderness", the story of that drama which is quickly becoming an historical document, demonstrates The Nature Conservancy's deep concern for the Glen. This new threat has aroused citizens throughout the country who consider this a test case in preserving a dedicated area from encroachment.

HEMLOCKS IN GEORGIA

Georgia Nature Conservancy members and many biologists throughout the Southeast have spent long hours trying to convince U. S. Forest Service officials that a primeval hemlock forest in the Cooper Creek basin of the Chattahoochee National Forest needs to be formally designated as a natural area. This 2,000-acre site, although similar in composition to some of the forests in the Great Smokies, is an important scientific unit for the southern Appalachians. Although government officials seem disposed to approve this site as a scenic area, the ensuing roads and developments would surely destroy the value of the forest as a scientific and wilderness area.

NORTHWAY GOING THROUGH

By the vote of 1,500,000 for to 1,175,000 against, Amendment #2 to the New York State Constitution allows Adirondack Forest Preserve lands to be used for the "Northway." The clear picture remaining after this close vote is that a vast number of people will tolerate no more desecration or chipping away at the Forest Preserve.

AN "OPEN SPACE" FOR MYSTIC

Mrs. Mary L. Jobe Akeley, widow of the late Carl Akeley, the explorer, is preserving her property on the Mystic River in Connecticut.

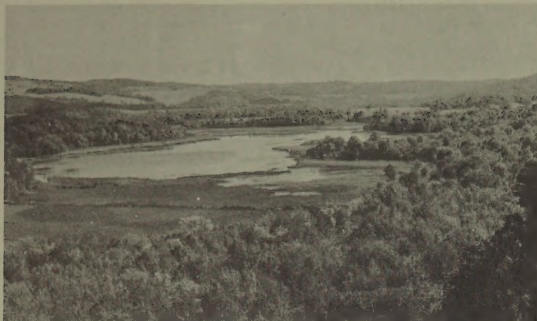
A portion of her tract, about 12 acres with frontage on High Street, was offered to The Nature Conservancy by Mrs. Akeley with an understanding that the land be held as the western part of a larger natural area. The larger area, which will be established at a later date under a trust, has a 1400 foot frontage on the Mystic River across from the Marine Museum.

This land has true "open space" value, both as an aesthetic setting for the Museum and a buffer for old colonial Mystic.

TRADITION TRIUMPHS

A small but important natural area recently was snatched from the path of progress. Progress took the form of two new buildings looking for a place to roost on the campus of Northern Illinois University at DeKalb. The Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy aided a local committee headed by Mrs. S. A. Tyler to protest the threatened loss of the woodland. An aroused citizenry, supported by the DeKalb Chronical, a local newspaper, spearheaded a state-wide protest which convinced the Teachers College Board to veto the choice of this woodland by the college administration. Thus this natural arboretum with its virgin oaks was saved for teaching teachers.

WETLANDS AND WATERFOWL



WATERFOWL USE THOMPSON POND

As the photograph shows, the marsh at Thompson Pond contains aquatic plants of many varieties which provide nesting habitat for marsh life. Rich in bird life, the Pond is considered to be one of the best locations for water birds in the entire central Hudson Valley region. Red-tailed hawks, which are often seen soaring over the lake in spring and summer, nest on Stissing Mountain which rises above the lake. A variety of ecological associations - water, marsh, grassland, forest - contribute to the biological richness of the area.

During the first year the local committee raised \$4,900 toward the acquisition costs of \$19,500. Much remains to be raised and it is hoped that many New Yorkers will take pride in the refuge by helping complete its purchase. It would seem that waterfowl enthusiasts in New York City would want to be identified with the preservation of this wild lake.

KINGS POINT POND

The thirteen acres of Kings Point Pond are being restored as a valuable waterfowl resting ground. A few years ago a retaining dam was washed away in a hurricane but the Long Island Chapter project committee built a new dam, with funds contributed by the same people who donated the land. An active project committee is carrying on a campaign to repay back taxes and dam costs and to provide for continuing maintenance. The dam is completed and the pond is gradually freshening, but whenever the moon is full the high tides from Manhasset bring in salt water which invades the sweet waters of the pond. Although the fresh water life does not appear to be adversely affected by the saline sea waters, this tidal influence offers a unique opportunity for scientific study.

MONADNOCK ISLAND PROJECT UNDERWAY

The campaign to save the island in Lake Nubanusit is well underway with the announcement on Thanksgiving eve by the Louis Cabot Preserve Committee that \$46,000 had been received or pledged toward a \$125,000 goal. This initial success has permitted committee members to enter into final negotiations for purchase of this beautiful island.

BUENA VISTA LAGOON MAY BE SAVED

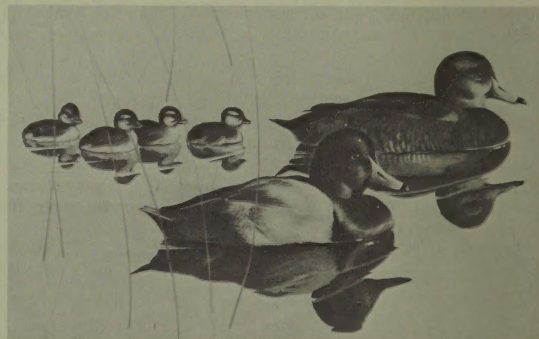
Initial efforts are now under way by the Orange-San Diego Counties Chapter of the Nature Conservancy to save one of the few freshwater lagoons on the southern California Coast. This is Buena Vista Lagoon between the towns of Oceanside and Carlsbad, a portion of which has already been set aside by the Buena Vista Lagoon Association as a bird sanctuary. Intermittent streams flowing from the mountains cannot maintain an open channel to the ocean except during heavy rains. Therefore a sandbar closes the mouth and a brackish-to-fresh lagoon forms behind it. The arid shoreline offers few such havens for water-loving birds and species of freshwater life. The saving of these lagoons was given high priority by the biologists conference sponsored by the Conservancy in 1958.

"DUCK STAMP" REFUGES

A heavy drop in "Duck Stamp" sales has prompted state and federal Fish and Wildlife officials to call on conservationists to support migratory bird refuges through duck stamp purchases. Drought conditions this past year curtailed waterfowl production and lower bag limits have discouraged many hunters from purchasing "Duck Stamps." The stamps essentially serve as federal waterfowl hunting permits although the older issues, going back to 1932, now have considerable philatelic value.

More than two million duck stamps are usually sold annually. Duck stamp revenues have been used in past years to supplement other funds appropriated to the Fish and Wildlife Service for the purchase, development, administration, and maintenance of waterfowl refuges throughout the country.

Effective July 1, 1960, all receipts from the sale of duck stamps, other than funds needed to reimburse the Post Office Department for the actual stamp costs, are to be used for the acquisition of suitable areas for migratory bird refuges under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act.



Duck stamp for 1960-61 -- the theme is "Wildlife Needs Water: Preserve Potholes"

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

Space for the Future

"Park reserves for future use" is, in essence, the forward look taken by the National Park Service at the biennial meeting of park service officials in December. This approach is along the line which The Nature Conservancy has been advocating for a decade for natural area preservation.

The farsighted view of the park service should have the support of all conservationists who see the need for natural places of quiet beauty. This view can include space for scientific studies in natural areas such as those envisioned by The Nature Conservancy and also by Elmer Aldrich in his recent report on recreational facilities for the State of California.

These concepts of more space for recreation and research purposes are entirely in harmony with the increased industrial and agricultural efficiency of our generation. In so far as every commercially used acre produces more and every new synthetic reduces need for agricultural space, so the relative amount of acreage for recreation and research can be increased.

Multiple Use Versus Multiple Values

Multiple use is a popular expression in certain areas of conservation discussion, and it seems particularly popular among those who oppose dedication of lands for particular purposes. This theme was also brought out at the biennial meeting of the park service officials.

Mr. Howard Stegner, Assistant Chief of Mission 66 of the Park Service, holds that the expression "multiple use" is misused when applied to a specific, relatively small area, but is valid for the country as a whole. This is not necessarily true and brings up disagreements which may essentially be in the field of semantics rather than fact. It is true that a small area should normally have one primary use with all other possible uses in a secondary position. Often it has one "use" but many "values." An area set aside as a "natural area" for scientific research and preservation of sample habitats, for its primary purpose, may at the same time be indirectly contributing to better hunting and fishing, better watershed runoff conditions, and in the long run, to better lumbering conditions in the surrounding territory.

Regardless of the interpretation of the term "multiple use," it is a gross distortion of the facts to use it to prevent the setting aside of lands as natural areas, as wilderness areas, as public parks, or reserves for future public parks. The arithmetic of the acreages involved compared to national totals is insignificant. The dividends for the public welfare in the short and the long run are tremendous and vital.

D. B. Stough

Members are cordially invited to visit the new more centrally located offices of The Nature Conservancy at 2039 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

President James B. Ross has announced the appointment of Dr. C. H. Wharton of the Department of Botany at the Georgia State College at Athens as Nature Conservancy Representative for Georgia and Dr. John M. Frazier at Mississippi Southern College at Hattiesburg as the Representative for Mississippi. Members in these states should communicate with representatives for help in getting local natural area preservation projects underway.

During the Christmas holidays representatives of the Board of Governors are visiting Cowles Bog near Dune Acres, Indiana. Ways for continuing the preservation of this 65-acre boreal bog will be discussed with members of the Save-the-Dunes Council.

Those interested in prairies should read "A Prairie Preserve," Missouri Handbook No. 5, available free from University of Missouri, Publication Office, Columbia, Missouri. This is the story of Tucker Prairie as told by those at the dedication ceremonies. Especially noteworthy are the addresses of Dr. William J. Robbins and Dr. Alan T. Waterman.

Dr. Richard Goodwin, Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee announced on November 14th that the Old Dominion Foundation had awarded a grant of \$35,000 to our Matching and Loan Fund to be paid to the fund in 1960. This fund is used to stimulate projects in natural area land acquisition either by project groups, chapters, or cooperating groups.

Our New England activities have taken a sudden spurt this fall with new projects, meetings, and membership growth. Members in Connecticut are planning an informal meeting to discuss ways of expediting natural area preservation activities in the State.

Dr. George Shattuck, Massachusetts Representative, has obtained the services of a special staff assistant, Mrs. Sylvia Shapiro, in a planned effort to expedite the program of preserving areas in that state. Mrs. Shapiro, who has had advanced training in regional planning and natural history, will coordinate our preservation efforts with local groups and gather information on natural area acquisition.

California and conservation lost a champion with the recent passing of Aubrey Drury, late Administrative Secretary of Save-the-Redwoods League. The Nature Conservancy Board of Governors cited their deep appreciation and gratitude for his life's work - conservation - and for his contributions in the preservation of natural areas.

The New Hampshire Natural Areas Council, which includes a number of charter members of Nature Conservancy, has listed forty-four of the most important natural areas in their state in need of preservation. This is a wise step in the setting up of a systematic priority system in acquiring nature preserves.

This year an appropriation of \$35,000 was made by Congress to the National Park Service for a detailed study for the preservation of the Current and Eleven Point Rivers in Missouri. N.C. members in Missouri have been talking up the idea of preserving these rivers as "National Rivers" in the same way unique units of land have been set aside as "National Parks."

MICHIGAN SURVEY

"The Preliminary Inventory of Michigan Scenic Sites" comes as an important addition to natural area surveys by states. This noteworthy release by Michigan State University and the Michigan Natural Areas Council has been sent to Michigan members of both the Council and the Nature Conservancy. While major emphasis is on scenic rather than biotic communities, the overlap in sites of joint interest is large, and the term "scenic" has been broadly used to include lakes, rivers, waterfalls, rock formations, mountains and hills, sand dunes, valleys and gorges, forests, marshes, swales and muskegs.

The authors of the report request that interested individuals add to the current inventory which lists slightly over 300 sites by using the report as a workbook. Those contemplating field work and extensive traveling in Michigan who might help the survey can obtain copies of the report from: Park Management Office, Dept. of Resource Development, Mich. State Univ., at E. Lansing.

CANADIAN NEWSLETTER ON "OPEN SPACES"

When a monetary institution comes out so strongly for the conservation concepts which Nature Conservancy members have supported through the years, it is indeed a red letter day. The Newsletter published by the "Royal Bank of Canada" gives a rather complete picture of the present problem of open space and natural area preservation, and we are delighted that this information has found its way into the world of high finance. Even the worldliness of banking officials does not prevent their belief in the values of the fairies, elves, and leprechauns as evidenced by this quote from the newsletter:

"Visitors to older countries notice that they have a greater respect for natural features than we have hitherto shown. Perhaps it is because wilderness places abroad are wisely protected by folk tales and beliefs. In Ireland, for example, people do not meddle with the 'fairy rings' or 'lone trees' that dot the landscape any more than they would break down the bounds of a fairy fort. Consequently, there is a haven on every good man's land for small wild creatures and gay flowers.

"Perhaps it is not modern to believe in fairies and leprechauns, but if they and the little light elves that inhabit the grassy verges of fields and the marshy banks of streams persuade us by promise or threat to preserve their homes they are doing us and our children's children a good turn."

The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific objective is to preserve natural areas as "living museums". Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and aesthetic values. They provide a home for many living things that would otherwise be destroyed by our civilization.

The work of the organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946, the Ecologists Union was formed to take over the task. In 1950 the name was changed to The Nature Conservancy; incorporation in the District of Columbia took place in 1951.

Nature Conservancy now has a national membership of approximately 3,000. It operates through a series of chapters, of which fourteen have been organized to date. It has acquired, by gift or purchase, 28 nature preserves in ten states, having an area of some 6,400 acres. These range in size from one acre to 3,000 acres. Nature Conservancy is now actively working toward the acquisition of additional natural areas in five additional states, the total area of which is about 10,000 acres.

The members of The Nature Conservancy invite you to join in its work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. A contribution of \$5 or more entitles you to annual membership, one of \$200 or more to life membership, and one of \$1,000 or more to patron membership. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

"THE CRISIS IN OPEN LAND"

This booklet is a valuable addition to the recent literature concerned with the preservation of open spaces

It makes a strong appeal for community action, for personal concern, and for national understanding of this current vital issue--the need to preserve a part of the natural landscape for future generations. It tells how to publicize, develop community interest, seek the coordinated action of many groups, and push through to completion a program for the preservation of open land. Most interesting are the three legal techniques proposed as ways for groups and public agencies to save lands. This booklet presents some of the most logical reasoning yet advanced for the preservation of open spaces--as evidenced by the following quote:

"The oppressive thing in a highly organized, highly urbanized, highly mechanized life is its sameness. To be enjoyed it must be balanced by the stimulation we find in the endless variety of nature. Living with machines, some of us need to be reminded that we are not also machines. As we become depersonalized, living becomes nothing but a process of making ourselves as comfortable as possible while waiting for death."

This booklet may be obtained from the American Institute of Park Executives, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia. It is a result of the efforts of their Park Education Committee.

EDUCATION OUT-OF-DOORS

An attractive 32-page booklet "Natural Areas for Schools" by Verna R. Johnston can be obtained free from the publisher, the Conservation Education Section of the California State Department of Natural Resources, Sacramento, California. The author, now on leave from her position as Biology Co-ordinator at Stockton College, is California Chairman of the Nature Conservancy's national committee on Natural Areas for Schools and is currently studying the use of natural areas by schools in California.

"Natural Areas for Schools" is designed for all grade levels from elementary school to junior college and explains how such areas may be located and put to use. It proposes that in addition to having natural areas as outdoor classrooms, "schools may become a potent instrument in saving some of our fast diminishing native landscape." The booklet includes a valuable summary of California plant communities.

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